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ACTION DEPARTMENT 55; INFORMATION LONDON 16, PARIS 17,
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DESPITE RATHER OFF-HAND TREATMENT OF BERLIN QUESTION BY MOST
GERMAN LEADERS IN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN SPEECHES, IN WHICH CONSIDER-
ABLE CONFIDENCE BUT NO DRIVING INTEREST IS DISPLAYED, IS
SENSE THAT POPULACE IN WEST GERMANY IS DEEPLY CONCERNED RE
FATE OF CITY. THERE HAS, OF COURSE, ALWAYS BEEN INCREASED
NERVOUSNESS WHEN BERLIN HAS COME TO FORE, BUT IN PAST THIS
HAS BEEN MORE AN ANXIETY RE DISTURBANCE OF OVERALL SITUATION
THAN PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR BERLIN ITSELF, AND HAS GENERALLY
TAKEN FORM OF WORRY RE POSITION OF WESTERN POWERS
AND HESITANCE AS TO WHAT FEDREP ATTITUDE SHOULD BE.

AS BERLIN CRISIS NOW APPROACHES, HOWEVER, THERE IS EXTRAOR-
DINARY DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE IN FIRMNESS OF WESTERN POWERS
IN GENERAL AND US IN PARTICULAR, COUPLED WITH QUIET ACCEPTANCE
OF FACT THAT GERMANS, TOO, HAVE NO REPEAT NO CHOICE BUT TO DEFEND
BERLIN. IN OTHER WORDS, NERVOUSNESS OF PREVIOUS CRISES
HAS BEEN REPLACED BY DETERMINATION TO HOLD ON TO WEST BERLIN.
ONLY FEW VOICES, NOTABLY THAT OF MENDE, HAVE BEEN RAISED IN
FAVOR OF NEGOTIATIONS AS POSSIBLE WAY OUT, AND CERTAINLY
NO CLAMOR EXISTS ON PART OF PUBLIC GENERALLY FOR THIS COURSE.

THIS RENEWED ATTACHMENT TO BERLIN, WHICH I HAVE ALLUDED TO
IN PAST AS PROBABLY ARISING FROM SOUNDER APPRECIATION THAT
RE-UNIFICATION IS LONG-TERM GOAL, IS PARTICULARLY EVIDENT
AMONG YOUNGER ELEMENT OF POPULACE. THIS FACT ALONE, IT SEEMS TO BE,
LEADS EMPHASIS TO OBVIOUS CONCLUSION THAT OUTCOME FOR BERLIN CARRIES
WITH IT PROFOUND IMPLICATIONS RE FUTURE POLICY OF WEST GERMANS.

SECRET

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